



PATENT
29038/10006

8/8/02
5/13/02
8/13/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

THOMAS et al.

Serial No.: 09/486,280

For: MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL
AND METHOD FOR
RECOVERING, STORING
AND/OR TRANSPORTING AND
OFF-LOADING MATERIAL IN A
DREDGING OPERATION

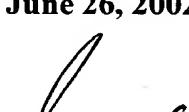
Filed: February 24, 2000

Group Art Unit: 3652

Examiner: J. Krizek

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date:

June 26, 2002


James A. Flight
Registration No. 37,622
Attorney for Applicants

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 26, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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The applicants have carefully considered the election of species

requirement contained in the Office action dated February 26, 2002.

Applicants hereby elect the species corresponding to Species A (FIG. 1) without traverse. Claims 1-3, 5-18, 21-26, and 28-36 read on the elected species.

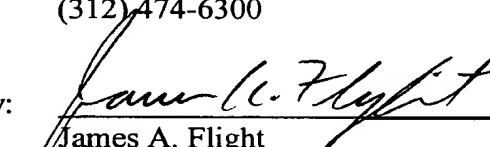
It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Since a generic claim is allowable, applicants respectfully request examination of non-elected claims 4, 19-20 and 27 along with the elected claims 1-3, 5-18, 21-26, and 28-36 at this time.

A petition for a three-month extension of time and the corresponding
fee is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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